

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 239

By Oliver

A RESOLUTION to honor Fisk Radio WFSK 88.1 FM upon its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, college and community radio stations have been important community cultural institutions since the early days of the radio industry, as the new medium brought local, national, and world events to listeners in a timely fashion and opened doors to music, sports, weather, and other features; and

WHEREAS, Fisk Radio WFSK 88.1 FM is one such vital station, which, for fifty years, has served as a beacon of entertainment, empowerment, and representation; and

WHEREAS, the station was the brainchild of Fisk University students back in the 1970s, and in 1973, it was licensed by the FCC as WRFN, later changed to WFSK; and

WHEREAS, as the first African-American-owned and -operated FM radio station in Nashville, WFSK had, and continues to have, an incalculable impact on the local community; when Fisk students started to play jazz in the 1970s, WFSK became the first station to broadcast such music in the area; and

WHEREAS, in addition to putting jazz on the local airwaves, Fisk Radio broadcast happenings within the Black community, including issues related to the Civil Rights Movement, often giving speakers visiting Nashville a platform to share their important work and ideas; and

WHEREAS, in its early days, Jazzy 88 WFSK also began broadcasting university basketball games, becoming the first Nashville station to feature Black basketball contests; and

WHEREAS, for half a century, WFSK has provided countless hours of reliable information, quality entertainment, and caring public service to thousands of listeners and has earned a hallowed place in the hearts of its patrons; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Fisk Radio WFSK 88.1 FM on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, extending to this important institution our best wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.